

Amendments to the Claims:

1 (previously presented). A medical method, comprising:

a) advancing a clip over body tissue, said clip having two arms each having a respective piercing portion and a bridge coupling the two arms, such that said body tissue is located between said two arms and such that said clip applies force to said body tissue; and

b) subsequently bending said piercing portion of at least one of said two arms through more than one half a thickness of said body tissue.

2 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said bending comprises bending said piercing portion completely through said body tissue.

3 (previously presented). A method according to claim 2, wherein:

said bending comprises bending said piercing portion into contact with said piercing portion of the other of said two arms.

4 (previously presented). A method according to claim 2,
wherein:

said bending comprises bending said piercing portion of both
of said arms completely through said body tissue.

5 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1,
wherein:

said tissue comprises tissue which is folded on itself to form
a first portion of a fold and a second portion of the fold,
and

said bending comprises bending said piercing portion of said
at least one of said two arms through said first portion of
the fold and at least partially through said second portion of
the fold.

6 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1,
further comprising:

prior to said ~~sliding~~ advancing, manipulating said tissue so
that said tissue is folded on itself.

7 (original). A method according to claim 6, wherein:

said tissue is an invaginated fundus of a stomach and the fold includes several layers of the invaginated fundus folded on itself.

8 (original). A method according to claim 7, wherein:

said manipulating is done by grabbing the fundus of the stomach with a grasping instrument and pulling on the fundus to cause invagination of the stomach.

9 (previously presented). A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

c) compressing and clamping first and second portions of a fold in said tissue into contact with each other prior to said advancing.

10 (previously presented). A method according to claim 9, wherein:

said advancing, said clamping, and said bending are accomplished by using a single instrument.

11 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said advancing and said bending are accomplished by using a single instrument.

12 (original). A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said tissue comprises two separate pieces of tissue.

13 (withdrawn). A medical method, comprising:

a) sliding two substantially straight unconnected arms over a fold of body tissue such that a first of said two arms contacts a first portion of said fold and a second of said two arms contacts a second portion of said fold; and

b) bending each of said two arms completely through said fold such that both of said two arms compress said first and second portions of said fold into contact with each other.

14 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

c) manipulating said body tissue to create said fold prior to said sliding.

15 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 14, wherein:

said fold of body tissue is an invaginated fundus of a stomach.

16 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 15, wherein:

said manipulating is done by grabbing the fundus of the stomach with a grasping instrument and pulling on the fundus to cause invagination of the stomach.

17 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 16, further comprising:

prior to said sliding, compressing and clamping said first and second portions of said fold into contact with each other.

18 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 15, wherein: said sliding, said clamping, and said bending are accomplished by using a single instrument.

19 (withdrawn). A medical method, comprising:

a) inserting an endoscope transorally through the esophagus to the stomach;

b) inserting a grasping device transorally through the esophagus to the stomach;

c) inserting a surgical clip applier having at least one clip transorally through the esophagus to the stomach;

d) invaginating the fundus of the stomach with the grasping device;

e) using the clip applier to first slide the clip over the invaginated fundus and then to apply force to bend at least one end of the clip to pass through the invaginated fundus in order to plicate the fundus.

20 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said inserting a grasping device comprises inserting the grasping device through a lumen of the endoscope.

21 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 20, further comprising:

f) attaching a sheath to an exterior of the endoscope, wherein

said inserting a surgical clip applier comprises inserting the clip applier through the sheath.

22 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 19, wherein:

said inserting a surgical clip applier comprises attaching the clip applier to the exterior of the endoscope prior to said inserting the endoscope.

23 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 20, wherein:

said inserting a surgical clip applier includes inserting the clip applier through a second lumen of the endoscope.

24 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 20, further comprising:

f) attaching a guide to an exterior of the endoscope, wherein
said inserting a surgical clip applier comprises attaching the clip applier to the guide.

25 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 19, wherein:
said inserting a surgical clip applier comprises attaching the clip applier to the exterior of the endoscope after said inserting the endoscope.

26 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said bending step is performed by bending only said piercing portion of at least one of said two arms through said body tissue.

27 (currently amended). A medical method, comprising:

providing a clip having:

two arms, ~~at least one of said two arms~~ each having a
piercing portion; and

a bridge coupling the two arms;

folding body tissue to form a folded portion extending along a
longitudinal direction;

advancing the clip over the folded portion of body tissue in
the longitudinal direction to place the folded portion between
the two arms and to apply force to the folded portion with the
clip; and

bending the piercing portion of at least one of the two arms
through more than one half a thickness of the folded portion
at an [[acute]] angle to the longitudinal direction.

28 (previously presented). The medical method according to
claim 27, further comprising releasably coupling the two arms
to the bridge.

29 (previously presented). A medical method, comprising:

providing a clip having two arms each having a respective
piercing portion and a bridge coupling the two arms;

advancing a clip over body tissue folded on itself to form a first portion of a fold and a second portion of the fold such that the first and second portions are located between the two arms and such that the clip applies force to the body tissue; and

subsequently bending the piercing portion of at least one of the two arms through the first portion of the fold and at least partially through the second portion of the fold.

30 (previously presented). A method according to claim 29, further comprising performing the advancing, the clamping, and the bending steps with a single instrument.

31 (new). A method for medically clipping body tissue, comprising:

providing a clip having two arms and a bridge coupling the two arms, the two arms each having a respective piercing portion;

advancing a clip over body tissue folded on itself to form first and second portions of a fold disposed between the two arms and to apply a force to the folded body tissue, the folded tissue defining a longitudinal direction of the folded

body tissue, the piercing portions of the two arms being initially oriented along the longitudinal direction; and

subsequently bending the piercing portion of at least one of the two arms to pierce through the first portion of the folded body tissue and at least partially through the second portion of the fold at an angle to the longitudinal direction.

32 (new). A method for medically clipping body tissue, comprising:

providing a clip having two arms and a bridge coupling the two arms, the two arms each having a respective piercing portion;

advancing a clip over body tissue folded on itself to form first and second portions of a fold disposed between the two arms and to apply a force to the folded body tissue, the folded tissue defining a longitudinal direction of the folded body tissue, the piercing portions of the two arms being initially oriented along the longitudinal direction; and

subsequently bending the piercing portion of at least one of the two arms at an angle to the longitudinal direction to pierce through the first portion of the folded body tissue and at least partially through the second portion of the fold.

33 (new). A medical method, comprising:

a) advancing a clip over two thicknesses of body tissue, said clip having two arms each having a respective piercing portion and a bridge coupling the two arms, such that said body tissue is located between said two arms and such that said clip applies force to said body tissue; and

b) subsequently bending said piercing portion of at least one of said two arms through more than one of said thicknesses of said body tissue.